

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important labor news, covering the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

WHOLE NO. 1041.

WEALTH IN FEW HANDS SHOWN BY TAX REPORT

Washington, March 21.—Rapid concentration of wealth in the hands of the few, and the disappearance of small incomes, is shown in the preliminary report of statistics of income for 1929, just released by the Federal Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

The claim that "the rich are getting richer and the poor poorer" is considered the cry of "agitators," but this is indorsed by startling figures which compare the 1929 incomes with those of 1926.

In 1929 incomes of \$1,000,000 or over were filed by 54 persons, or over were filed by 52 persons. They received \$7,678,139.

While incomes of the million-dollar class have been steadily mounting, a contrary trend is shown in the middle and small incomes, and the 1929 incomes of the \$5,000 to \$10,000 class were \$4,217,215. In 1929 this figure dropped 10 per cent.

A study of small income returns shows that the decline in earnings had been more drastic for the middle class than for the large class. In 1929 the total income of the \$5,000 to \$10,000 class dropped from \$4,050,661 to \$3,826,811.

The commissioner's report is in endorsement of labor's reasons for the business depression.

P. O. BUILDING RENT IS HELD "OUTRAGEOUS"

Kansas City, Mo., March 21.—The Federal Circuit Court of Appeals today ruled as "outrageous" the annual \$120,000 rental the government has been paying for lease of a building used by the St. Paul (Minn.) post office.

The property is assessed at \$117,500 and the government has been paying the assessed value for a rental that will equal the assessed value in less than three years.

The scandal was exposed in Congress and \$400,000 was appropriated to purchase the property. The government was unable, through negotiations, to secure the building at a reasonable price because of the lease and condemnation proceedings were started.

In sustaining the government, the court of appeals said:

"Such an outrageous rental supports the powerful influence of the plaintiffs (the lessors) to delay in every possible manner the ultimate determination of condemnation proceedings in order to prolong the receipt of such rents."

UPTURN IN BUSINESS NOT HERE, SAYS AYRES

Cleveland, March 21.—There is no sign that a sustained business recovery is getting under way, according to Colonel Lester P. Ayres, president Cleveland Trust Company and a close student of economic conditions.

Writing in the current issue of the bank's business bulletin, Ayres says business and trade are more active than a month ago, but that the improvement is mostly seasonal.

"This summary of conditions is by no means inspiring," Ayres writes. "It would have fitted last month almost as well, and even the month before that. It is not so much a sign of recovery as it is a sign of the year never before needing help."

PINCHOT POLICE PLAN OPPOSED BY UNIONISTS

Harrisburg, Pa., March 21.—Governor Pinchot's industrial police bill was opposed by trade unionists at a legislative hearing in the state capital today.

The governor favors the Wilson bill, which would make each company responsible only to the State department under which they would function. Their salaries would be paid by the companies to which they are assigned.

The unionists favor the Musmanno bill, which was rejected by four Governor Pinchot. It would reduce the industrial police to the status of watchmen, whose authority would be strictly limited to the property of their employers.

The latter bill was favored by John A. Phillips, president State Federation of Labor; Martin J. Connelley, president District No. 7, United Mine Workers, and F. J. Connelley, president District No. 6 of the same international.

PICKETING STOPPED

New York, March 21.—Supreme Court Justice Harry E. Lewis ended picketing by striking men and women, who had signed an agreement with a dual order of workmen, when the court's friends not to patronize these places.

WILLIAM GREEN, President

Business Men "Skirt the Edges" On Causes For Depression

The present depression can not be ended by business men struggling themselves for a greater share of the Nation's income now produced by the Nation.

It is no remedy, for instance, if clothing manufacturers, through intensive advertising, divert dollars from shoe manufacturers.

Fundamental conditions are not improved if a group of clothing workers are put to work while an equal number of shoe workers are laid off.

The people's purchasing power must be enlarged. They can buy shoes as well as clothing.

The present method is "robbing Peter to pay Paul," said Mr. Green.

The failure of business men to realize the basic need of greater purchasing power is too common.

FIVE-DAY WEEK DEMAND MARKS END OF ORDER

Washington, March 21.—"The old order has passed," declared Wm. Green, president A. F. of L., in urging the five-day week in an address to the non-partisan conference in this city.

The trade unionist traced the development of machinery in industry to the cause of the present work day "shall be made flexible so as to fairly square with the productivity of individual workers and the industry."

"If a man can do the same work in four days that he did in six days, why should he be required to work the same number of days, only to produce the same amount of work?"

Mr. Green quoted census figures to sustain his claim that in 1929 the per cent in wages, as compared with production, was 100 per cent.

UNEMPLOYMENT EVILS MORE WAGE, LESS HOURS AFTER BUSINESS SAG

New York, March 21.—Even were the end of the business depression near, the need for relief will be increased, said the National Association of the Welfare Council of America.

"You don't know how soon or how rapidly business conditions will improve," said the association.

"The health, charitable and other welfare work of the city have throughout the last year, been called on to a greater extent than ever."

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MUSCOLETTI THEORY OPPOSED IN FRISCO

San Francisco, March 21.—Organized labor today opposed the Muscoletti theory of government change that will be proposed by the Speaker of the Assembly.

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STATE INCOME TAX BILL REJECTED BY GOVERNOR

Indianapolis, March 21.—Governor Leslie will not act on the proposed income tax bill introduced by the legislature. The bill, he said, was not the product of the House in the manner and at the time required by law.

The bill would have a graduated personal income tax, rates ranging from 10 to 15 per cent on income over \$5,000.

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1931

They want what we have for sale.

Mr. Abbott ignores lack of purchasing power, and insists that "better merchandising offers the one assurance of prosperity."

Neither of these business men touch the source of our troubles. It is not a question of making the people "want what we have for sale," nor to induce them to buy.

These business men must accept the fact that if wealth is more widely diffused, in the form of wages and salaries, the people's purchasing power will be enhanced.

Instead of talking about "better merchandising methods" these business men can find the source of the trouble by a study of income tax returns for 1929, just issued by the Federal Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

WHY PRIMARY IS OPPOSED

The primary destroys political partisanship. Party ties are loosened. Voters do not obey the edict of those who arrange matters, and whose decision is then approved by a hand-picked convention.

The primary system and political party discipline can not exist. One of them must yield.

It is a simple rule that where a man opposes the primary system he believes in a strong, disciplined political party, whose edicts must be obeyed.

There is no more in this country for the two systems.

PICKETS ARE HELD TO AID EMPLOYERS WORK ON BOULDER DAM LIMITED TO FEW MEN

Washington, March 21.—The Boulder Dam contract has been awarded to the United States Reclamation Service, and the statement on work conditions in that project has been issued by the A. F. of L.

The first work will be construction of a six-mile railroad to connect the government railroad with the dam site, and the work will be done by the A. F. of L.

The contract provides that the A. F. of L. will be given the right to employ men on the project, and the work will be done by the A. F. of L.

COSSACK PLAN IS FOE OF DEMOCRATIC IDEALS

Des Moines, Iowa, March 21.—Trade unionists and the railroad brotherhoods are opposing a plan to build a Cossack plan in Iowa, which would be a violation of the Federal Labor Law.

The plan would be a violation of the Federal Labor Law, and the railroad brotherhoods are opposing it.

MOTOR TRAINS EXEMPT FROM OHIO CREW LAW

Columbus, Ohio, March 21.—A motor train crew law in Ohio, which would govern by the Ohio full crew law, according to a decision by the State Supreme Court.

The law would be a violation of the Federal Labor Law, and the railroad brotherhoods are opposing it.

RAIL LAW CONTESTED

Washington, March 21.—The Missouri Pacific Railroad is contesting the Arkansas law, which would govern by the Federal Labor Law.

The law would be a violation of the Federal Labor Law, and the railroad brotherhoods are opposing it.

LABOR JOINS IN NON-PARTISAN MEET

Washington, March 21.—If business does not improve, an extra session of Congress will be called to consider a conference to prevent economic chaos and starvation.

The bill was signed by Senator Norris, and the conference will be held in the near future.

VOL. 21, NO. 2

Rail Trainmen May Join A.F.L. Plan Discussed at Joint Meeting

Washington, March 21.—A conference at A. F. of L. headquarters, called by President Green, discussed jurisdiction of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen and several A. F. of L. affiliates.

Differences are being adjusted preparatory to the Brotherhood's action at their Houston convention next May on proposed A. F. of L. affiliation. The Brotherhood has a membership of more than 188,000.

Other conferences will be held prior to the Houston convention. The Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen and several A. F. of L. affiliates.

The conference will prove historic, and the result of many discussions between President Green and A. W. Winton, president of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen.

"I don't know of any reason why this great organization, the B. of T., should be on the outside looking in on this, the greatest labor federation in the world. I am happy to say that even before Brother Green addressed our meeting in Montreal the other day, 100 chairmen of our general body, eight vice-presidents and officers were on record in favor of the B. of T. affiliation."

"I am a member of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, and I am proud to say that I am a member of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, and I am proud to say that I am a member of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen."

LABOR'S HOPE IS UNIONISM, EASTERN BISHOP'S ADVICE

Fall-River, Mass., March 21.—"The cotton operative is being forced into a position where he is being treated as a slave," declared Bishop James E. Cassidy, in a series of articles in a local newspaper.

The clergyman quoted this passage from a 16th century of Pope Leo XIII: "Small number of very rich men have been able to lay upon the masses of the laboring poor a yoke little better than slavery itself."

Bishop Cassidy said that the cure for the laborer's ills is unionism, and that the laborer should be organized and united with the workers of his industry.

"How these divisions between workers must gladden the hearts of the manufacturers," he said. "I am not going to dwell unnecessarily upon the fact that the laborer is being treated as a slave, but I am going to dwell upon the fact that the laborer is being treated as a slave."

JOHN ALPINE NAMED RADIO TRUST LOOMS BY BUREAU RULINGS

Washington, March 21.—John R. Alpine was appointed special assistant to Secretary of Labor Daugherty. The new official will have charge of the proposed expansion of the Federal Employment Service to administer the emergency fund of \$400,000 appropriated at the last session of Congress.

The scheme is intended to extend the activities of the employment service, which would be superseded by a new bureau of labor relations, which would be created by the President.

The new official served as a vice president of the A. F. of L. and as a member of the National Labor Relations Board.

TWO MILLION WAGE FOR TOBACCO HOPS

New York, March 21.—The annual wage of George W. Hill, president American Tobacco Company, is \$250,000. The company has a net income of \$1,000,000.

The company has a net income of \$1,000,000, and the president's wage is \$250,000.

PROPOSED AGED PENSIONS

Charleston, W. Va., March 21.—The House of Representatives unanimously approved the bill No. 4, which would create an old age pension for needy citizens. The bill would provide for a minimum payment would be \$20 a month.

PRISON CEMENT FACTORY

Oklahoma City, March 21.—The House of Representatives passed a bill to provide for the establishment of a cement factory, to be manned by prison labor.

GAS TAX FOR RELIEF

Indianapolis, March 21.—Governor Leslie announced that he would propose a gas tax to provide for the relief of the poor.